

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: HISTORY OF PHILIPPINES (OFFICIAL VERSION) PUBLISHED

1. AS AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF THE NEW SOCIETY, OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE HISTORY HAS BEEN REWRITTEN. A BOOK ENTITLED "THE PHILIPPINE HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT," BY GREGORIO F. ZAIDE, HAS JUST COME OFF THE PRESSES AND IS BEING DISTRIBUTED AS THE APPROVED VOLUME TO BE USED IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IT IS A FACTUAL AND BALANCED RENDITION OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY, BUT INCLUDES FOUR CHAPTERS ON POLITICAL CHAOS IN THE EARLY UPJS MARTIAL LAW, THE NEW SOCIETY, AND THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF 1972, WHICH REFLECT THE OFFICIAL MALACANANG VIEW OF THOSE EVENTS.

2. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ALSO ARE THE FOUR CHAPTERS ON THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES. THEY ARE IMPECCABLY WRITTEN IN A FORM WHICH WOULD GLADDEN THE HEART OF ANY PAO. THEIR ESSENCE CAN BEST BE GLEANED FROM THE OPENING WORDS DESCRIBING THIS PERIOD:

"IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO GOVERN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE AND TO TRAIN US IN THE WAYS OF DEMOCRACY, SO THAT SOME DAY WE SHOULD BE WORTHY OF INDEPENDENCE ... AMERICA FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED THIS POLICY IN OUR COUNTRY. IT WAS ENFORCED BY ALL

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AMERICAN PRESIDENTS FROM MCKINLEY TO FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,

AND BY ALL AMERICAN GOVERNORS FROM TAFT TO MURPHY."

3. IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT, FOR AT LEAST THE
COMING GENERATION OF PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE
FAIR NAME OF AMERICA IN THIS LOVING LAND.
SULLIVAN

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